



DEBRA TRUDE-SUTER, PHD

CEO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Trude-Suter is a high energy, fiscally conscious, and goal-driven executive who approaches business and academic challenges with an intrinsic flair for innovation, creative problem-solving, and measured risk-taking to drive consistent bottom-line improvements. Debra is a consummate student and lifelong learner. She began her career in early care and education in the late 1970s after she completed her Associates degree. A year later she began teaching pre-school and was soon promoted to assistant director and within a year later was promoted to the position of Executive Director.

Since those early years she has worked in many non-profit programs that operated early care and education as well as after school programs for elementary, middle school, and high school girls. Dr. Trude-Suter graduated from Roosevelt University with a BA/MA in psychology with a specialization in women and children's studies. Her master thesis was devoted to the study of social skills training for elementary children. As she honed her skills in leadership and management, in both the profit and non-profit sectors, she pursued a doctorate in Community Psychology. Her final research project and dissertation work revolved around the topic of the psychological keys to job satisfaction.

Debra has taught at ITT Technical Institute; Kendall College; and, National Louis University. She held the position of Director of Training at the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership at National Louis University focusing on research related to the quality of work-life balance of early childhood educators. Additionally, it was her charge to focus on professional development, program evaluation, research, and public awareness to help cultivate leaders in early childhood education. And, she has traveled extensively providing leadership and management training for directors and administrators in the field of early care and education. Along this journey, she has followed her passion of mentoring and coaching women and girls. In 2012, Dr. Trude-Suter accepted the position of CEO, Executive Director for AGBMS-AEHI.

With extensive experience in leadership and management, she has the ability to work closely with community organizations, local leaders and officials to determine needs and opportunities. She has deep conceptual and analytic ability; excellent written and oral communication skills; professional integrity; and an innate ability to envision, formulate and implement 'possibilities'.